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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,670	08/31/2001	Brad Pivar	7207-211	1117

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EXAMINER

ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2165

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/943,670

Applicant(s)

PIVAR ET AL.

Examiner

Neveen Abel-Jalil

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7,9 and 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,9 and 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-7, 16-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 22, 2005 has been entered.
2. The amendment filed on September 22, 2005 has been received and entered. Claims 1, 8, and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 12-17 are newly added. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9, and 11-17 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 2-5, 9, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Berringer et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0181756 A1).

As to claims 2, and 12, Berringer et al. discloses wherein the computer network is the Internet (See pages 3-4, paragraph 40).

As to claims 3, and 13, Berringer et al. discloses
determining whether the at least one response to at least one request from the first user is valid and second, at least one additional request to the first user for additional information if the at least one response from the first user is invalid (See page 6, paragraph 0062).

As to claims 4, and 14, Berringer et al. discloses
determining whether the at least one response to the at least one request from the second user is valid and sending at least one additional request to the second user for additional information if the at least one response from the second user is invalid (See page 7, paragraph 0081).

As to claims 5, and 15, Berringer et al. discloses
performing a routine determined from the selected document to provide feedback to the first user, the feedback determined in part by the at least one response to the at least one request received from the first user (See page 4, paragraph 0048).

As to claim 9, Berringer et al. discloses a method for interactive processing of a document to be competed by more than one party over a computer network comprising:

selecting a document to be completed by more than one party (See pages 1-2, paragraph 0014);

providing at least one request to a first user at a first location on a computer network for information used to complete the document (See page 4, paragraph 0042);

receiving at least one response to the at least one request from the first user used to complete the document (See page 4, paragraph 0043);

writing information obtained from the at least one response from the first user to at least one digital file (See page 4, paragraph 0043);

performing a first digital signature routine on the at least one digital file to obtain a first digital signature of the at least one digital file (See page 2, paragraph 0031);

creating a first time stamp corresponding to the time of submission of the information obtained from the at least one response from the first user (See page 6, paragraph 0070);

sending the first digital signature and the first time stamp to a remote location (See page 6, paragraphs 0071-0072);

providing at least one request to a second user at a second location on the computer network for information used to complete the document (See page 4, paragraph 0046-0047);

receiving at least one response to the at least one request from the second user used to complete the document (See page 4, paragraph 0046-0048); and

writing information obtained from the at least one response from the second user to at least one digital file (See page 4, paragraph 0050);

performing a second digital signature routine on the at least one digital file to obtain a second digital signature of the at least one digital file (See page 6, paragraph 0064, also see page

12, column 2, lines 39-43, wherein “second time stamp” reads on “time stamp” crated with each signor’s signature);

creating a second time stamp corresponding to the time of submission of the information obtained from the at least one response from the second user (See page 9, paragraph 0092); and

sending the second digital signature and the second time stamp to a remote location (See page 4, paragraph 0044).

As to claim 11, Berringer et al. discloses a system for interactive processing of a document comprising:

a storage device (See page 3, paragraph 0034);

a processor connected to the storage device and to a first and second user on a computer network (See page 3, paragraph 0034);

a timing device connected to the processor (See page 12, column 1, lines 40-42);

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor (See page 3, paragraph 0034); and

the processor operative with the program to:

send at least one request determined from a selected document to a first user at a first location on a computer network (See page 4, paragraph 0042);

receive at least one response to the at least one request from the first user (See page 4, paragraph 0043);

write information obtained from the at least one response from the first user to at least one digital file (See page 4, paragraph 0043);

determine a first time stamp from the timing device corresponding to the receipt of the at least one response to the at least one request from the first user (See page 6, paragraph 0070);

perform a first digital signature routine on the at least one digital file to obtain a an original digital signature (See page 2, paragraph 0031);

record the first time stamp and the first original digital signature associated with the at least one digital file in a database (See page 9, paragraphs 0092-0095);

send at least one request determined from the selected document to a second user at a second location on a computer network (See page 6, paragraphs 0071-0072);

receive at least one response to the at least one request from the second user (See page 4, paragraph 0043); and

write information obtained from the at least one response from the second user to at least one digital file (See page 4, paragraph 0050);

determine a second time stamp from the timing device corresponding to the receipt of the at least one response to the at least one request from the second user (See page 6, paragraph 0064, also see page 12, column 2, lines 39-43, wherein "second time stamp" reads on "time stamp" crated with each signor's signature);

perform a second digital signature routine on the at least one digital file to obtain an original digital signature (See page 6, paragraph 0064, also see page 12, column 2, lines 39-43, wherein "second time stamp" reads on "time stamp" crated with each signor's signature); and

record second time stamp and second original digital signature associated with the at least one digital file in the database (See page 4, paragraph 0044, also see page 9, paragraphs 0092-0093).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 6-7, and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-7, 9, and 11-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Slater et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,489 B2) teaches digital signature between two parties.

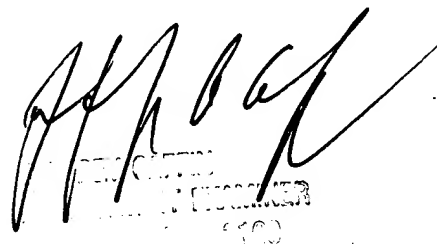
Carter (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,175) teaches collaborative document control.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5: 30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
December 8, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neveen Abel-Jalil', is written over a faint, rectangular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.